

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

KELLY A. THIRTLE,

Petitioner,

v.

JOHN DAHM,

Respondent.

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CASE NO. 8:11CV23

MEMORANDUM  
AND ORDER

This matter is before the court on Petitioner's Motion for Leave to Appeal In Forma Pauperis ("IFP") (Filing No. [24](#)) and Motion for Certificate of Appealability (Filing No. [26](#)). On November 9, 2011, the court dismissed Petitioner's habeas corpus claims and entered Judgment against her. (Filing Nos. [21](#) and [22](#).) Petitioner thereafter filed a timely Notice of Appeal. (Filing No. [23](#).)

***I. Motion for Leave to Appeal In Forma Pauperis***

Petitioner is a prisoner who has not previously been granted leave to proceed IFP.

Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 24(a) provides:

Except as stated in Rule 24(a)(3), a party to a district-court action who desires to appeal in forma pauperis must file a motion in the district court. The party must attach an affidavit that:

(A) shows in the detail prescribed by Form 4 of the Appendix of Forms the party's inability to pay or to give security for fees and costs;

(B) claims an entitlement to redress; and

(C) states the issues that the party intends to present on appeal.

Id. Petitioner's Motion includes an "Affidavit in Support" in which she asserts that she is indigent and is unable to pay the costs of litigation. (Filing No. [24](#) at CM/ECF p. 2.) However, the Affidavit does not describe the details of Petitioner's inability to pay. (Id.)

Moreover, Petitioner's Motion does not claim an entitlement to redress or state the issues that she intends to appeal. (*Id.*) Pursuant to [Fed. R. App. P. 24](#), the court will deny Petitioner's Motion for Leave to Appeal IFP as insufficient and without prejudice to reassertion before the Eighth Circuit.

## ***II. Motion for Certificate of Appealability***

On December 8, 2011, the court entered a Memorandum and Order giving Petitioner until January 9, 2012, to file a motion for Certificate of Appealability and brief in support. (Filing No. [25](#).) Petitioner mailed her Motion for Certificate of Appealability along with a Brief in Support on January 9, 2012. (Filing Nos. [26](#) and [27](#).)

Before a petitioner may appeal the dismissal of a petition for writ of habeas corpus, a "Certificate of Appealability" must issue. Pursuant to the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 ("AEDPA"), the right to appeal such a dismissal is governed by [28 U.S.C. § 2253\(c\)](#), which states:

(c)(1) Unless a circuit justice or judge issues a certificate of appealability, an appeal may not be taken to the court of appeals from—

(A) the final order in a habeas corpus proceeding in which the detention complained of arises out of process issued by a State court;  
 . . .

(2) A certificate of appealability may issue under paragraph (1) only if the applicant has made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.

(3) The certificate of appealability under paragraph (1) shall indicate which specific issue or issues satisfy the showing required by paragraph (2).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Similarly, [Fed. R. App. P. 22\(b\)](#), as amended by AEDPA, indicates that in an action pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 2254](#), a notice of appeal triggers the requirement that the district judge who rendered the judgment either issue a certificate of appealability or state the reasons why such a certificate should not issue. See generally [Tiedeman v. Benson, 122 F.3d 518, 521 \(8th Cir. 1997\)](#).

A certificate of appealability may issue only if the applicant has made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right. See [28 U.S.C. § 2253\(c\)\(2\)](#). Such a showing requires a demonstration “that reasonable jurists could debate whether (or, for that matter, agree that) the petition should have been resolved in a different manner or that the issues presented were adequate to deserve encouragement to proceed further.” [Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 \(2000\)](#) (internal quotation marks omitted) (citing [Barefoot v. Estelle, 463 U.S. 894 \(1983\)](#) (defining pre-AEDPA standard for a certificate of probable cause to appeal)).

“Where a district court has rejected the constitutional claims on the merits, the showing required to satisfy § 2253(c) is straightforward: The petitioner must demonstrate that reasonable jurists would find the district court’s assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong.” [Slack, 529 U.S. at 484](#). Similarly, if the district court denies a petition for writ of habeas corpus on procedural grounds without reaching the underlying constitutional claims on the merits:

[A] COA should issue when the prisoner shows, at least, that jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the petition states a valid claim of the denial of a constitutional right and . . . would find it debatable whether the district court was correct in its procedural ruling . . . . Where a plain procedural bar is present and the district court is correct to invoke it to dispose of the case, a reasonable jurist could not conclude either that the district court erred in dismissing the petition or that the petitioner should be allowed to proceed further. In such a circumstance, no appeal would be warranted.

[\*Id.\*](#)

The court has carefully reviewed the record and Petitioner’s Motion and Brief. (Filing Nos. [26](#) and [27](#).) Petitioner has failed to demonstrate that reasonable jurists would

find this court's ruling debatable or wrong. For the reasons stated in its November 9, 2011, Memorandum and Order (Filing No. [21](#)), the court declines to issue a Certificate of Appealability.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Petitioner's Motion for Leave to Appeal IFP (Filing No. [24](#)), and Motion for Certificate of Appealability (Filing No. [26](#)) are denied without prejudice to reassertion before the Eighth Circuit; and
2. The Clerk of the court shall provide the Court of Appeals a copy of this Memorandum and Order.

DATED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012.

BY THE COURT:

s/Laurie Smith Camp  
Chief United States District Judge

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